
Iran's leading football club has apologised after men's and women's teams played each other contrary to Islamic law. Esteghlal football club, which was top of the Iranian league, has penalised three officials and made an official apology. From Tehran, Jon Leyne reports:

The match took place on **a training ground** between the Esteghlal women's team and their men's youth team. **Mixed sports** are strictly forbidden in Iran, and women are not even allowed to go into football grounds to watch men's games.

As Esteghlal is owned by the government, there was an immediate **inquiry**. The two **coaches** involved have been **suspended** for a year and **fined** and the head of the club's academy has also been **fined**. He claimed that the two teams only **came into contact briefly after their training sessions overlapped** and he **insisted** his club was **committed to** "moral values", **as he put it**.

But the Iranian media say the two teams played a match in which the boys' team won seven - nil.

Jon Leyne, BBC News, Tehran

Vocabulary and definitions

a training ground	an area of land used for a particular purpose (here, to allow football players to practice and improve their fitness)
Mixed sports	competitive physical activities where both men and women take part at the same time
inquiry	an official process of asking questions with the purpose of discovering the facts about something negative that has happened
coaches	people whose job it is to teach others how to improve at a sport
suspended	if you are suspended from work, you are temporarily not allowed to work because you have done something wrong
fined	punished by being ordered to pay money for breaking a rule or law
came into contact briefly after their training sessions overlapped	were both together on the same football ground for a short time because their scheduled times of practising partly coincided
insisted	maintained, firmly and repeatedly said
committed to	devoted/completely loyal to
as he put it	to quote his words, in his own words

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